

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one purified, natural or synthetic polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which ~~is represented wholly or partly by~~ consists of at least one sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO : 1, SEQ ID NO : 4, SEQ ID NO : 5, and SEQ ID NO : 6, ~~SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 8 ; SEQ ID NO : 9, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 and SEQ ID NO : 27,~~ and homologs thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has a peptide sequence ~~represented by~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO : 5~~[[,]]~~ or SEQ ID NO : 6~~[[,]]~~ ~~SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is in a dimeric or other multimeric form.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has undergone one or more post-translational modifications.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is in the form of a polypeptide of sequence SEQ ID NO : 5~~[[,]]~~ or SEQ ID NO : 6, ~~SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO :~~

~~27,~~ fused with another polypeptide, a hydrophilic or hydrophobic targeting agent or a bioconversion precursor.

6. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one polypeptide mixture ~~derived~~ obtained from the proteolysis of a polypeptide, the sequence of which is represented wholly or partly by the sequence SEQ ID NO : 5[[,]] or SEQ ID NO : 6[[,]] ~~SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27,~~ or homologs thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for combating skin conditions associated with a dysfunction of cell proliferation and/or differentiation associated with corneodesmosin degradation, comprising applying to the skin, the mucous membranes and/or the keratin fibers of a subject in need of such treatment, a thus effective amount of at least one polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which comprises at least one sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~SEQ ID NO : 4[[,]] SEQ ID NO : 4, SEQ ID NO : 5, and SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 8, SEQ ID NO : 9, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 and SEQ ID NO : 27,~~ and homologs thereof, or a mixture ~~derived~~ obtained from the proteolysis of said polypeptide.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence SEQ ID NO : 5[[,]] or SEQ ID NO : 6[[,]] ~~SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, for the treatment of dry skin, hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis, sebogenesis conditions, neoplasias and/or signs of skin aging.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a dermatological infection associated with corneodesmosin degradation, comprising administering to a subject

in need of such treatment a thus effective amount of a polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which comprises at least one sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~SEQ ID NO : 1~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 4~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 5~~, and ~~SEQ ID NO : 6~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 7~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 8~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 9~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 16~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 25~~ and ~~SEQ ID NO : 27~~, and homologs thereof, or of a mixture ~~derived~~ obtained from the proteolysis of said polypeptide.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, for the treatment of ichthyosis, psoriasis, eczema, rosacea, lichens, pruritus, or other pathology associated with hyperkeratosis or parakeratosis or having an inflammatory component associated with corneodesmosin degradation.

12.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) An isolated and purified polypeptide belonging to the aspartic acid protease family, having a peptide sequence ~~represented by~~ consisting of ~~SEQ ID NO : 6~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 16~~, ~~SEQ ID NO : 25~~ or ~~SEQ ID NO : 27~~.

29. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, having an apparent molecular mass of between 5 and 30 kD.

30. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, which is in a dimeric or other multimeric form.

31. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, having a theoretical isoelectric point of between 3 and 9.

32. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, said polypeptide being of natural origin and purified from mammalian tissues.

33. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 32, purified from human epidermis or other human skin.

34. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, which has undergone one or more post-translational modifications.

35. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28 which is in the form of a polypeptide of sequence SEQ ID NO : 6, ~~SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27~~, fused with another polypeptide, a hydrophilic or hydrophobic targeting agent or a bioconversion precursor.

36.-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 29, having an apparent molecular mass of between 9 and 15 kD.

47. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 46, having an apparent molecular mass of between 11 and 14 kD.

48. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence ~~represented by~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6.

49. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 6.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence presented by SEQ ID NO: 6.

51. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 6.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) A method for degrading corneodesmosin in corneocytes comprising applying to corneocytes an effective corneodesmosin degrading amount of at least one polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which comprises at least one sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6 and homologs thereof.